

Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8691

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 10049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: FO AND ILO ELECTIONS

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING (16 APRIL) WITH BRITISH AND AMERICAN LABOR COUNSELORS, ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY GENERAL, RECOGNIZED THAT FO DELEGATE TO ILO ANDRE FAESCH HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED TO THE GOVERNING BODY NEXT JUNE. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO FAESCH'S INABILITY TO DEVOTE TO ILO AMOUNT OF TIME WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR, ROGER LOUET, WAS ABLE TO DO AND TO FO'S POLITICAL ISOLATION BECAUSE ITS PHILOSOPHY AND ATTITUDES, ESPECIALLY ON EAST-WEST TRADE UNION RELATIONS, ARE NOT FASHIONABLE.

2. WHILE ADMITTING THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A DIFFERENT SITUATION, BERGERON DISMISSED THE PROSPECT OF FAESCH'S FAILURE IN THE ILO ELECTIONS AS UNIMPORTANT.

3. COMMENT: BERGERON'S STATEMENT SOUNDS MORE LIKE
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THE PROVERBIAL SOUR GRAPES. HE HAS SEVERAL REASONS

TO TAKE THE STANCE HE TOOK:

(A) HE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR HIS CHOICE OF FAESCH TO SUCCEED LOUET WITHOUT TAKING STEPS TO RELIEVE HIM OF SOME OF HIS DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES SO AS TO BE ABLE TO GIVE ILO MORE TIME.

(B) HE HAS ALWAYS FELT CHALLENGED BY LOUET'S OUT-GOING PERSONALITY AND DRIVE AND PROBABLY FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ADMIT THAT LOUET'S REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN GENEVA WAS MORE DUE TO HIS PERSONAL QUALITIES THAN TO HIS FO AFFILIATION.

(C) HE IS PROBABLY AWARE THAT WRONG TACTICS SUCH AS MISDIRECTED RIGIDITY OR CALCULATED ABSENCES FROM CONFRONTATION SITUATIONS MAY BE AS MUCH RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HE PERCEIVES TO BE FO'S POLITICAL ISOLATION AS ITS IDEOLOGICAL CONSISTENCY AND RIGOR.

4. REGARDLESS OF WHAT BERGERON SAYS, FAESCH'S FAILURE NEXT JUNE WILL BE A FO SETBACK.

RUSH

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NNN

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